(a) the policy for procurement of medicines under the National Rural Health Mission scheme;

(b) whether Government is aware that the restriction of turn over clause has stopped the competitiveness of small scale units; and

(c) if so, what is the comparative prices of medicines procured under the National Rural Health Mission scheme, year-wise till date?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Funds are released to States and Union Territories by National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for procurement of medicines. The States and Union Territories make procurement of medicines as per their existing procurement policy.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Pictorial warning on tabacco packets

1587. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing the pictorial warning on tobacco packs strictly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes. The Government of India has notified "the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labeling) Rules, 2008" *vide* GSR No. 182 dated 15th March, 2008. These rules came into force from 31st May, 2009. As per these Rules, every package of cigarette or any other tobacco product manufactured after 31st May, 2009 in the country shall have the specified health warning, as specified in the said rule. Letter at the level of Secretary/Joint Secretary have been sent to excise, customs and Health officials concerned for strict compliance of aforesaid Rule.

(c) Does not arise.

Health mission for people of urban slums

1588. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to improve and monitor the health mission of around 22 crore people living urban slums in around 429 cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the people of slums will feel the improved condition?